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cay of the republican constitution. In this part of their work they have naturally been guided largely by Mommsen, to whose researches ample acknowledgment of obligation is made in the preface. But the authors are disciples of Mommsen in much more than the mere acceptance and utilization of his results; they are saturated with Mommsen's spirit. Like him they recognize fully the capital importance of individual leaders, men like Fabius, the elder Africanus, Cato, Sulla, Cæsar, whose characters and determining influence are admirably summarized. Witness this concerning Cato (p. 303): "this political gladiator and typical Roman, this hard-hitting, sharp-witted, keenly commercial, upright, vulgar Philistine."

All references to art and literature are designedly omitted from the book. Few will condemn this procedure in treating the history of a people among whom literature was essentially an exotic, never, with the rarest exceptions, a manifestation of the national life.

The volume displays throughout a firm grasp of the subject matter, wise perspective and clear arrangement, while the exposition is always interesting and at times is invested with a positive literary charm. One leaves the concluding chapter with regret and wishes that the authors had continued their account well into the imperial period. It is to be hoped that they may yet see their way to rendering this much-needed service.

The work is illustrated by excellent maps, plans and numerous cuts of archæological and historical interest. An index and two appendices, on the assemblies and the chief Roman roads, conclude the volume.

CHAS. E. BENNETT.

Europe in the Middle Age. By OLIVER J. THATCHER, Ph.D., and FERDINAND SCHWILL, Ph.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. Pp. xii, 681.)

THIS volume, the result of the authors' experience in teaching general European history in the University of Chicago, is designed as a text-book for the use of freshman and sophomore classes. The period covered extends from A. D. 500 to 1500, and the whole of Europe, together with the Mohammedan countries, is included in the survey, although the space devoted to England and the lesser nationalities is relatively small. Dynastic and territorial matters claim the greater share of attention, but not to the exclusion of the history of institutions and civilization. The chapters, which vary in length somewhat arbitrarily from four to one hundred pages, are not always well articulated and are quite uneven in style and manner of treatment. Sometimes, as in the account of Italy during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, we find a skillful presentation of a complex subject, but too often the narrative offers little more than a succession of names and dates. The number of errors is considerable. Some of these—like the phrase "Roman Kelts" (p. 97), the mention of Poitou and Poitiers on page 156, and the confusion of the branches of the trivium and quadrivium (p. 589)—are no doubt due to

inattentive proof-reading ; in other instances, as in the matter of the palisade at Hastings, the relation of the Roman and the Christian basilica, and the dates of the Merovingian kings, recent research has not been sufficiently regarded ; but in far too many cases the fault is due to loose and careless habits of statement. Conformity to good usage in the spelling of proper names is highly desirable in a text-book, and while the influence of the archaistic revival still delays the adoption of a uniform English practice in these matters, one has at least the right to object to forms like "Kaernthen" (p. 125), "Nijmegen" (p. 151), and "Staufer" (p. 315), and to condemn "Friesians" (pp. 54, 101, etc.), "Clugny" (p. 329), "St. Bernhard" (p. 595) and "Raffaelle" (p. 653, followed two pages further on by "Titian") as quite without excuse. The same may be said of the use of "fodrum" (p. 222), "baillie" (p. 498), and "house-wealth" (p. 554).

As a guide to further study, the volume is notably deficient. "We have taken it for granted," the authors say, "that the teachers who may use the book are acquainted with the best literature on the period and will be able to direct the reading of their classes. The student for whom we are writing would be confused rather than helped by long lists of books, unless each book were accompanied by a discriminating estimate of its character and value;" and they content themselves with a reference to Adams's *Manual* and the lists in *Methods of Teaching and Studying History*, and an enumeration of a dozen general works "for the benefit of those who have no access to the above mentioned authors." It is hardly necessary to point out that those who are thus cut off are not likely to have within reach the forty-five volumes of Schroeck's *Geschichte der christlichen Kirche* mentioned among the general works; the objections to this method of procedure lie deeper. What ground does experience furnish for assuming that the teachers who may use this book are acquainted with the best books of reference? And is it not one of the first duties of a manual of this sort to provide students with discriminating estimates of books? We appreciate the authors' objections to the mere piling of reference upon reference in history-teaching, but surely the remedy lies in judicious selection and not in the entire refusal of assistance. More attention should also have been given to the matter of sources ; the scattered citations are quite inadequate, and the absolute dependence of the historian upon original materials is not clearly brought out.

A thorough-going revision would do much to remedy the defects here pointed out ; in its present form *Europe in the Middle Age* does not meet all the demands which may properly be made of an elementary text-book.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

Die Schlacht von Hastings. By WILHELM SPATZ, Phil. D. (Berlin: Ebering. 1896. Pp. 69.)

THE reason avowed by Dr. Spatz for his publication of this treatise is the controversy that has raged about the battle of Hastings, since 1892,